



WAC 197-11-990 Notice of Action.

NOTICE OF ACTION

Notice is given under SEPA, RCW 43.21C.080, that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) took the action described in (2) below on April 17, 2006.

1. Any action to set aside, enjoin, review, or otherwise challenge such action on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of Chapter 43.21C RCW (State Environmental Policy Act) shall be commenced on or before May 17, 2006.

2. Description of agency action: Adoption of DNR's Lynx Habitat Management Plan (January, 2006).

3. Description of proposal: The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan is a non-project proposal. It is developed in response to the federal listing of the species as threatened (USFWS) 2000) and revises the 1996 DNR Lynx Habitat management Plan (WDNR 1996, modified through a USFWS agreement on April 26, 2002) that had been developed in response to the Washington State listing of the species as threatened in 1993. The plan guides DNR in creating and preserving quality lynx habitat through its forest management activities. It allows DNR to meet state and federal requirements for protecting the lynx, while at the same time providing revenue through sustainable forest management, as well as meeting its other land management obligations (i.e. recreation). The plan covers approximately 126,212 acres of DNR-managed lands in each of the six Lynx Management Zones recognized by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Stinson 2001). The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan review is phase three of a phased review process including:

- (1) Phase 1: A MDNS was issued on the modifications to the 1996 Lynx Habitat Management Plan on May 8, 2002. The modifications are described in the Agreement Letter issued by USFWS on April 26, 2002 regarding DNR's proposal to avoid incidental take of lynx. Notice of Action was filed by DNR on June 5, 2002.
- (2) Phase 2: The Notice of Final Determination for the Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan SEPA was issued on April 8, 2003. The Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan incorporates the Modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan along with any subsequent changes to the plan. The Loomis Natural Resources Conservation Area Management Plan was approved in May, 2003.
- (3) Phase 3: Final update and current MDNS on the modified Lynx Habitat Management Plan, January 2006.
- (4) Phase 4: Draft and final updated Loomis State Forest Landscape Plan and supplemental EIS currently anticipated for draft issuance in late 2006 and final issuance in early 2007. It will incorporate the 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan.

4. Location of proposal: The 2006 Lynx Habitat Management Plan covers all DNR-managed lands within the six Lynx Management Zones identified in the Lynx Recovery Plan for Washington State (Stinson, 2001). Generally, this area is located east of the Cascades crest to the Idaho border and north of Highway 2 within the following counties: Okanogan, Chelan, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille. Most of the area is above 4000 feet elevation. DNR manages four percent of the primary lynx habitat in Washington - approximately 126,212 acres out of 3,198,238 acres of suitable lynx habitat in Washington. Most of the lynx habitat managed by DNR (77 percent, approximately 97,124 acres) is in the Loomis State Forest, which is in Okanogan County.

5. Type of environmental review under SEPA: A Mitigated Determination on Non-significance (MDNS) was issued on the Lynx Habitat Management Plan on February 6, 2006. The MDNS was signed on February 3, 2006. A Notice of Final Determination retaining the MDNS threshold determination was issued on March 7, 2006.

WAC 197-11-990 Notice of Action (continued)

6. Documents may be examined during regular business hours at:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
225 S. Silke Road
Colville, WA 99114-0190

Washington State Department of Natural Resources - SEPA Center
S. 1111 Washington St. SE
4th Floor Natural Resource Building
Olympia WA 98504-7015

7. Name of agency, proponent, or applicant giving notice: Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

8. This notice is filed by:

Signature: John X. Viada Title:
JOHN X. VIADA, Northeast Region Manager

Date: 4-17-06